

Master Certificate Scheme

Background

The Master Certificate Scheme is designed to encourage career progression in areas of skills identified with City of London Livery Companies. Through this initiative, they are acting in partnership with City & Guilds of London Institute to encourage the pursuit of excellence in vocational education and training.

Master Certificates were first introduced in 2001. The Master Plumber Certificate was soon followed by similar programmes for Carpenters and Joiners. The model framework was adopted by the Construction Liveries Group (CLG) and became the pattern for further development of the Scheme. However, the principles involved apply to any sector and, in 2007, the CLG joined forces with the Livery Companies Skills Council (LCSC) in order to advance the concept within the wider Livery movement.

After some 250 Master Certificates had been awarded, the Scheme was expanded to provide a progression route to encourage those who embark on a 'Career Based on Skill.' The first Apprentice and Journeymen Certificates were presented at a ceremony at Glaziers Hall in October 2008. The scheme achieved another step forward in June 2010 when Sheriff Peter Cook presented Certificates at Carpenters Hall at the first joint presentation ceremony involving the Carpenters, Lightmongers and Plumbers Companies.

The next major event took place at Charterhouse in March 2011, when for the first time the Lord Mayor, Alderman Michael Bear, presented the Certificates, which included [for the first time] two Journeyman Plasterers.

In February 2012 at Plaisterers' Hall, the Lord Mayor, Alderman David Wootton, presented Apprentice, Journeyman and Master Certificates awarded by the Glaziers, Lightmongers, Plaisterers, Plumbers and Paviers Livery Companies.



In February 2013 Sheriff Nigel Pullman presented certificates at Tallow Chandlers Hall, including an Apprentice Horner, Amy Keenan. Then in 2014 four more Companies were welcomed on board - the Clockmakers, Wheelwrights, Wax Chandlers and Masons, with the Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf, presenting the Certificates at Carpenters Hall.

The Worshipful Companies of Clockmakers, Wheelwrights and Wax Chandlers were the first LCAS Companies to participate in the Award Scheme and Master Certificates were awarded to those involved in training, assessing & mentoring LCAS apprentices recognising the experience and status of the Master Craftsmen responsible for training and assessing their apprentices.



In 2015, three more LCAS Companies joined the Scheme - the Coachmakers, Merchant Taylors and Upholders. In February, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Alan Yarrow, presented the Certificates at Saddlers' Hall.

One important objective of the Livery Companies Apprenticeship Scheme (LCAS) was to include the participating apprentices in the Master Certificate Scheme when they have successfully completed their training. In this way, Masters, Journeymen and Apprentices will share a common bond of recognition through the Livery Companies.

In February 2016 certificates were presented by the Lord Mayor, the Lord Mountevans at Fishmongers Hall and recipients included two LCAS apprentices who had completed their apprenticeships – one Apprentice Certificate and one Journeyman Certificate.



Journeyman Merchant Taylor James Weir



Apprentice Clockmaker Jacob Russell

In February 2017 certificates were awarded across eight Livery Companies and presented by the Lord Mayor, Dr Andrew Parmley at Merchant Taylors Hall

In 2018 we were delighted to welcome two new Companies to the Scheme, the Furniture Makers and Constructors. The ceremony was at Glaziers' Hall with the Lord Mayor Charles Bowman presenting 38 Master, Journeyman and Apprentice certificates to recipients from 14 Livery Companies including some LCAS apprentices who completed their training in 2016 and 2017.



In March 2019 City & Guilds joined us for their Livery Company Prize Giving. These prizes are awarded for outstanding learner or tutor achievements to those who have achieved or delivered City & Guilds qualifications. We also welcomed the Spectacle Makers to the Master Certificate Scheme and overall 22 Livery Companies participated in this event at Carpenters' Hall with the Lord Mayor Alderman Peter Estlin presenting the C&G Prizes and Apprentice, Journeyman and Master Certificates.



The 2020 ceremony was truly memorable in more ways than one – it was the largest to date and for the first time the event was hosted by Mansion House. City & Guilds collaborated with us again for their Livery Company Prize Giving and the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell presented 10 C&G Livery Company prizes and 45 Apprentice, Journeyman and Master Certificates across 23 Livery Companies in the magnificent Egyptian Hall. The Lord Mayor was accompanied by both Sheriffs, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli and Christopher Hayward CC, and it was inspiring to hear so many talented award winners pledging their endeavours to mentor and train the next generation.



Onwards, Upwards and Outwards

Other Livery Companies are preparing the way for more areas of skill to receive attention as together we strive for excellence and in due course, we hope to embrace the full range of activities encompassed by City of London Livery Companies.

For hundreds of years, the Livery Companies of the City of London have made an invaluable investment in the futures of their industries. Their experience and expertise have been inherited and developed by the modern Livery, a unique family with a common heritage of mutual respect and a desire to act in the best interests of the community.

Recognising excellence in our chosen vocation is a very practical way of maintaining and raising standards.